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most every instance, word for word, the same, excepting that, under some of the letters, — those nearest the beginning, and in a few detached words elsewhere, — Mr. Casserly added the derivations. Further than this, we must not be expected to interfere, even in the office of umpire, in this minor Battle of the Books ;

“ Non nostrum inter vos tantas componere lites ;  
Et vitulo tu dignus, et hic.”

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5. — *Memorandum of a late Visit to some of the principal Hospitals, Prisons, &c., in France, Scotland, and England. Embraced in a Letter to the Acting Committee of the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons.* Philadelphia : E. G. Dorsey. 8vo. pp. 33.

THIS pamphlet is one of the means which are frequently resorted to by the persevering, industrious, and ambitious friends of the system of discipline pursued at the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, to direct public opinion in favor of that system. It contains no statement of facts that are important in the discussion of the question, Which is the best plan of prison discipline ? but has frequent, direct and indirect, expressions of opinion in favor of the *separate system*, as it is called ; thus endeavouring to produce the impression, that the great weight of authority is on that side. We will not assert that the pamphlet misrepresents in this particular. We are inclined to think, however, that the best and highest authorities are in favor of the Auburn plan. But we consider this a matter of little moment to ourselves. We have presumed to form an opinion upon the facts we have learned on the subject, taking care to have good authority for them ; and the quotation of the opinion of this or that governor of a foreign prison, or this or that scholar who may, or may not, know more of the matter than ourselves, we confess, has very little weight with us. Still, it is a very favorite method of our friends at Philadelphia, interested in this subject, to roll the ball of opinion, as if every accumulation must, of necessity, be a valuable addition to the weight and power of the mass.

There is an admission on the very second page of the pamphlet before us, which has a tendency to show the value of such opinions as may be collected abroad.

“ There is, at present, as you know, no system of prison discipline either in England or France. Indeed, the style of building, govern-

ing, and furnishing prisons, is far less uniform than with us, defective as our country still is in this respect." — p. 4.

Why go to France or England, then, to look for that which exists in a better form at home ? Is it for the purpose of sending out such rash assertions as are contained in the following paragraph ?

"In France, public opinion is settled in favor of the Pennsylvania or separate system, substantially ; 1. For all untried prisoners of every grade ; 2. For all juvenile delinquents ; and 3. For all convicts whose sentence is for a less term than one year. And there seems to be no doubt that the same principle will soon be recognised in all terms and subjects of imprisonment. The efforts, which have been made in our country to mislead the community respecting the tendency and results of the separate system, have had an unhappy influence abroad. Statements have been copied from the reports of the Eastern Penitentiary in Philadelphia, by the opponents of the separate system, without the explanations which accompanied them in their original form ; and hence the most unreasonable and groundless prejudices have been excited in the minds of those who rely on these garbled representations." — p. 4.

We think there is much reason to doubt whether the same principle will soon be recognised in all terms and subjects of imprisonment, either in France or any other country ; because we have great reliance on the ultimate prevalence of truth, and sound argument, and experience. The charge of making efforts to mislead the community, comes with an ill grace from the friends of those who have disputed and denied facts which they have, at last, been constrained to admit. But we are not disposed to bandy recriminations. We prefer to state one or two of the reasons why we presume, that the separate system will not find favor universally, as it has done in Pennsylvania.

In the first place, notwithstanding all the architectural skill which has been bestowed upon the construction of prisons on the plan of the Eastern Penitentiary, none has ever yet been built, which effectually and perfectly accomplishes the object of preventing communication from cell to cell. And we feel justified, by experience and by reason, in expressing the belief, that no continuous building of the kind ever will be, or can be erected. If you wish to isolate the prisoner, you must put him in a cell separated from all others. A range of contiguous cells, between which all communication shall be stopped, is an impossibility. We might rest here, and ask, Why should an impossibility be attempted ? But there are other topics to which we think it proper to allude, upon this and all other oc-

casions, when the subject of the Auburn System and the Separate System is under discussion.

There has been abundant experience in the world, both before and since the erection of the Eastern Penitentiary, to prove that the tendency of perpetual solitude is to produce *dementia* ; and, though the construction of such prisons may not be adequate to prevent the adroit and accomplished rogue from holding as much intercourse as he may wish with his neighbours, it is quite sufficient to produce very visible injurious effects upon the minds of those who are less hardened and skilful. For the proof of this, we refer to the annual reports of the Directors of the Philadelphia Prison. Now, we say, and we believe the world in general will agree with us, that this is intolerable. No human being, or collection of human beings under the name of a Legislature, has any right to inflict a punishment upon another, which has a direct tendency to make him an idiot, or a lunatic ; and that protracted total solitude has this tendency, is so clearly established, that few will be found bold enough to deny it, except the friends of the Separate System. All the imperfections that have been charged upon the Auburn System, if a thousand times worse than they have ever been represented, are trifling in comparison with this one indisputable and dreadful blemish, with which the Separate System is chargeable, and the Auburn System is not.

Here, again, we might stop, and ask, if such a barbarism should be permitted in this age of the world. For ourselves, it is sufficient. And, until it is clearly established, that long-continued solitude is not injurious to the mental faculties, we shall oppose the system which requires such solitude.

We have neither time nor space, at present, to go further into the discussion of this interesting subject, which, our readers will remember, has been recently treated by us at some length.\* We will merely add, at present, that in all the essential points of discipline, instruction, and economy, the Auburn plan is, in our judgment, decidedly superior to the other. When we speak of instruction, we refer to religious instruction, which is as important, — more so, if possible, — to the convict, as to the free citizen. And how this can be given on the separate plan, so advantageously as on the other, surpasses our powers of imagination. There is a scheme, described in the pamphlet before us, as devised for the London model prison, by which each prisoner is to occupy a little box, opening towards the preacher, in each corridor, on Sundays, that thus several hundreds may listen at once. This plan is,

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\* See *North American Review*, Vol. XLIX. p. 1 *et seq.*

as yet, untried, the prison not being completed ; but, if it should work as well as expected, it will still fall far short of the effect of united worship in a chapel.

This pamphlet presents the subject in no new points of view ; but the subject itself is so interesting and important, and so little understood or regarded by the public, that we are willing to take every occasion in our power to turn towards it that spirit of inquiry, of sagacity, and of justice, which is characteristic of our community, and which cannot fail to establish the truth at last.

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6. — *Seleccion de Obras Maestras Dramáticas de LOPE DE VEGA y CALDERON DE LA BARCA*. Por F. SALES, A. M. Boston. Jaime Munroe y Compañia. 12mo. pp. 292.

THIS volume contains some of the finest specimens of the Spanish drama, namely, “*La Estrella de Sevilla*” of Lope, and “*El Principe Constante*” and “*El Mágico Prodigioso*” of Calderon. The extreme care, with which the text has been prepared and printed, reflects great credit upon its editor, Mr. Sales of Cambridge, and can be fully appreciated only by those who are conversant with the coarse and incorrect editions of the Spanish drama current in Spain. The volume is not only carefully but handsomely printed, and adorned with a fine head of Lope.

“*La Estrella de Sevilla*” is one of the best of its author’s heroic dramas. The plot is in the highest degree interesting ; and the characters and scenes are sketched with great dramatic power. An analysis of this play, with translated extracts, may be found in Lord Holland’s “*Life of Lope de Vega*.” The story is in general the same as that of Mrs. Butler’s “*Star of Seville*,” though the *dénouement* varies. It is founded on events in the life of Sancho el Bravo.

“*El Principe Constante*” is an historic drama, founded on the captivity and death of the Portuguese Prince, Ferdinand, in Africa. Though not entirely free from vagueness and declamation, it contains many stirring passages, and fine scenic effects ; as, for example, the Prince’s death and the apparition of his ghost, clad in the dress of his knightly order, and leading the Portuguese army to battle.

“*El Mágico Prodigioso*” is the Spanish Faust, and relates the temptation, conversion, and final salvation of Saint Cyprian, of Antioch. It is a remarkable production, both as a poem and